

Raw Milk Outbreak

In the spring of 2012 there were 19 cases of E.coli reported the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (MDHSS) central office. An investigation in to the cause of the illnesses was launched by MDHSS and multiple local public health agencies (LPHAs). After closer examination of the 19 illnesses, it was discovered that 17 of the individuals consumed raw dairy products from a local farm. There were multiple hospitalizations of individuals that were sickened with the disease. One small child, who also had reported drinking raw milk, was hospitalized for months with hemolytic uremic syndrome (HUS) and other complications, including the possibility of brain damage. HUS is a life-threatening condition characterized by cellular destruction, blood clots, and organ failure. With the combined efforts of MDHSS and LPHAs it was concluded that the source of the outbreak was likely to be raw dairy products from a local farm. By working closely with the farm, other clients that regularly consumed raw dairy products from the facility, and issuing a health advisory it is likely that other individuals were prevented from becoming ill.